MoU signed with Britain for cooperation in power sector

424. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed an MoU with Britain for greater cooperation in the power sector;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the details of the power projects which would be implemented with cooperation of Britain?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of reply to (a), do not arise.

Setting up of Thermal Power Station at Sipat in M.P.

425. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has a proposal to set up a 3000 MW super thermal power station at Sipat in Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the local farmers, residents and environmentalists under the banner of Sarvadaliya Kisan Morcha (SKM) and Bilaspur Central Paryavaran Samrakshan Manch (PSM) have been campaigning against the location of the proposed plant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Governmet's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has planned to set up a coal based super thermal power project with a capacity of 1980 MW in Stage-I at Sipat in Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh. Various clearances such as coal linkage, environmental and forest clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoE&F), and techmoeconomic clearance from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) etc. are available. Three

660 MW units with supercritical steam parameters will be installed by NTPC to make the project environment friendly. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 7798.7 crores at 1st quarter, 1999 prices.

The NTPC also envisages expansion of the project by 660 MW in Stage-II. Feasibility Report for the same has also been submitted to CEA by NTPC.

(c) and (d) A few organisation like Sarvadaliya Kisan Morcha (SKM), Bilaspur Central Prayavaran Samrakshan Manch (PSM) and certain individuals have represented against the location of the proposed plant at Sipat. The issues raised *inter-alia* relate to environment, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) of the Project Affected Persons (PAPs), acquisition of agricultural land etc. The issues raised by them have been suitably clarified by NTPC. MOE&F has issued environmental clearance after taking into account all the factors including public hearing. NTPC will be undertaking R&R of PAPs in accordance with the R&R policy approved by the Government. NTPC and District Administration are having continuous discussion and interaction with the PAPs, Villagers and Gram Panchayats. The Rehabilitation Committee formed by the District Collector is preparing rehabilitation package in consultation with the Village Development Advisory Committee (VDAC) and PAPs. NTPC has taken adequate care to avoid acquisition of homestead and minimise acquisition of agricultural land while selecting the site and finalising the plant boundaries.

Sipat will be the first project in India where environment friendly supercritical technology is being adopted. As reported by NTPC, most of the local farmers and residents of the projects affected villages are supporting setting up of the project.

Demand and Supply of Power in Delhi, Punjab and Tamil Nadu

†426. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that demand for power in the States of Delhi, Punjab and Tamil Nadu is more than its supply;

(b) if so, what is the position of demand and supply of power in the above States;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this gap between demand and supply of power has been existing for the past many years; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.